

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An operating mechanism for a medical device, the operating mechanism comprising:

a switching unit means that can operable to designate specified ~~functional~~ operations in an endoscope unit;

an air-tight unit ~~that can configured to~~ accommodate the switching unit means air-tightly;

a moving member ~~which is~~ disposed inside the air-tight unit, and ~~which moves~~ movable between a position in which the switching unit means designates an operation and a position in which the switching unit means ~~does not designate an~~ designates no operation;

biasing unit means which configured to directly or indirectly bias biases the moving member from another position to the position in which no operation is designated;

an operating member ~~which is~~ disposed on ~~the an~~ outside of the air-tight unit, and ~~which can be operated~~ operable by an operator; and

a switching-function change-over unit adapted to move ~~means that moves~~ the moving member by magnetic force into the position in which an operation is designated against the biasing force of the biasing unit means in accordance with the operation of the operating member.

2. (Currently Amended) The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 1, wherein the switching unit means is a photo-interrupter.

3. (Currently Amended) The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 1, wherein the switching unit means is a switch that is placed in a conductive state by being pressed.

4. (Currently Amended) The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 1, wherein the switching-function change-over unit means comprises:

a first magnet ~~which is~~ disposed on the operating member or an operating auxiliary member disposed on the outside of the air-tight unit with ~~the an~~ air-tight unit main body interposed; and

a second magnet ~~which is~~ disposed on the moving member disposed on the inside of the air-tight unit with the air-tight unit main body interposed.

5. (Currently Amended) An operating mechanism for a medical device comprising:

a switch that controls specified functional operations in an endoscope unit;

an air-tight unit that can accommodate the switch air-tightly;

a moving member which is disposed inside the air-tight unit, and which moves between a position in which the switch designates an operation and a position in which the switch does not designate an operation;

an operating member which is disposed on the outside of the air-tight unit, which can be operated by an operator, and which is disposed such that no contact is made with the moving member; and

a switching-function change-over portion which switches the functional operation of the switch by varying the position of the moving member in accordance with the operation of the operating member.

6. (Original) The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 5, which further comprises a biasing member that directly or indirectly biases the moving member to the position in which no operation is designated.

7. (Original) The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 6, wherein the switching-function change-over portion varies the position of the moving member by magnetic force.

8. (Currently Amended) The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 7, wherein the switching-function change-over portion comprises:

a first magnet which is disposed on the operating member or an operating auxiliary member disposed on the outside of the air-tight unit with the an air-tight unit main body interposed; and

a second magnet which is provided on the moving member disposed on the inside of the air-tight unit with the air-tight unit main body interposed.

9. (Original) The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 5, wherein the switch is a photo-interrupter.

10. (Original) The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 5, wherein the switch is a switch that is placed in a conductive state by being pressed.

11. (Currently Amended) An operating mechanism for a medical device comprising:
switching means that controls specified functional operations in an endoscope unit;
an air-tight unit that can accommodate the switch air-tightly;
a moving member which is disposed inside the air-tight unit, and which moves between a position in which the switch designates an operation and a position in which the switch does not designate an operation;

operating means which is disposed on the outside of the air-tight unit, which can be operated by an operator, and which is disposed such that no contact is made with the moving member; and

switching-function change-over means which varies the position of the moving member to switch the functional operation of the switch by operating the operating means.

12. (Original) The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 11, which further comprises biasing means that directly or indirectly biases the moving member to the position in which no operation is designated.

13. (Original) The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 11, wherein the switching-function change-over means varies the position of the moving member by magnetic force.

14. (Currently Amended) The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 13, wherein the switching-function change-over means comprises:

a first magnet which is disposed on an operating member or an operating auxiliary member disposed on the outside of the air-tight unit with ~~the~~ an air-tight unit main body interposed; and

a second magnet which is disposed on the moving member disposed on the inside of the air-tight unit with the air-tight unit main body interposed.

15. (Original) The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 11, wherein the switching means is a photo-interrupter.

16. (Original) The operating mechanism for a medical device according to claim 11, wherein the switching means is a switch that is placed in a conductive state by being pressed.

17-19 (Canceled)

20. (New) The mechanism of claim 1, wherein the medical device is adapted to be sterilized at high-pressure in an autoclave.